



## Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

Tony Evers, Governor | Mary M. Kolar, Secretary

October 20, 2020

Dear Union Grove Members, Friends, and Family:

Thank you choosing the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove to provide your family with support throughout this pandemic. We're proud to care for our members each day with compassion and dignity that promotes their comfort, health, and engagement.

Unfortunately, since our update last week, we were informed that a member has tested positive for COVID-19. I am grateful to be able to report that no additional staff have tested positive. All other members on the unit tested negative. Due to this positive test, we will initiate testing of all staff and members.

As you know, COVID-19 cases throughout the state continue to grow rapidly. While we all know this, I mention it because what happens outside our doors affects us. I've said before that we don't operate in a bubble. We've talked about staff needing to go out in the community once they leave work. But did you know we also have many members who are required to leave the building for medical and other appointments? These are the reasons why it's so important to follow the public health guidance and do your part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Finally, due to the positive test, we are required to push back in-person Safe Visits. We understand that this is very disappointing for you and for the members. It's disappointing for us, too. However, we must abide by the required Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 14-day waiting period following a confirmed COVID-19 case before we are authorized to admit new members and allow visitors. Again, we understand your disappointment, but we must abide by CMS requirements if we want to be able to serve members who utilize Medicare and Medicaid. Not doing so would risk losing our CMS certification.

I continue to ask you to help us as we work to provide the best care possible during this challenging time. Stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out and maintain at least six feet from others, and wash your hands frequently.

Sincerely,

Erin Johnston  
Commandant